*all the news they don't tell you*

# TAMESIDE BYE

15p.

YOUR LOCAL ALTERNATIVE PAPER

JULY 1979 N°8


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# TAMESIDE EYE IS

- INDEPENDENT.
- HARD-HITTING.
- NON-PROFIT-MAKING.

# EYE

HAD A BRUSH WITH AN UN-CO-OPERATIVE BUREAU-CRAT?
YOUR BOSS BEEN SILLY OR UNPLEASANT?
WHAT ABOUT THAT CONFID-ENTIAL MEMO THAT DIS-TURBS YOU?
THINK PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT GOES ON BEHIND CLOSED DOORS?
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News

# PRINT SHOP SWEAT SHOP

THERE ARE MANY SMALL BUSINESSES IN TAMESIDE WHERE THE WORKERS ARE NOT UNIONISED AND AS A RESULT HAVE TO PUT UP WITH POOR CONDITIONS, LOW PAY, AND SOMETIMES ARBITRARY TREATMENT FROM MANAGEMENT. THIS IS ONE WORKER'S ACCOUNT OF HER FIRM'S REACTION TO THE WORKERS' ATTEMPTS TO UNIONISE. . .

Hurst and Jones is a small printing firm employing ten or so people in Hyde producing fabric emblems and badges. Since it moved up from London three years ago it has not only showed scant regard for the welfare of its staff, but has shown the lengths to which it is prepared to go to avoid its employees becoming unionised.

Maggie Pearson, until recently a screen printer at the firm takes up the story:
"From the outset there were problems. Urgent jobs were taken on late in the afternoon with promises to be completed by the next day. Overtime became almost compulsory, after a period in which we had been laid off for sometimes days at a time. Requests for more staff were ignored, as were those for better equipment to work with. Matters came to a head when a printer who had produced consistantly high quality work was given a written warning for printing a job in the wrong colour."
SOGAT was approached and they offered to send a representative. He had to be met off the works premises and a room was booked in a local pub. "It stated in our contracts that management would respect our rights to join a union, but still a number of people thought we had to ask their permission first because they were afraid of being in breach of contract. So we decided to compose a joint letter and each signed it. The next morning Mr. Jones had all those who had signed in his office individually. I was asked who had written the letter, had it been written in firm's time and who was responsible for getting everyone to sign! I had to refuse to answer saying only that it was my right to join a union and the others felt the same.

From then on management tried everything they could to disuade us. A meeting of the whole firm was set up at which we were told we were not producing anything while the meeting was on and we were costing the firm a lot of money. The next ploy was to sympathise with the need for a union but that SOGAT was not the one for us and they would refuse SOGAT officials access to the premises. Apparently they felt that because the badges produced were fabric the Union of Textile Workers was the one for us. To emphasise their argument they laid on a buffet lunch for us and invited textile union representatives to speak to us. This sad fiasco took place and the union rep from the AUTW had a terrible job trying to explain how printers and artists fitted in to a union for weavers and winders. No one signed up. Next day we were told that our grievences would be looked into and anyway there was no need for a union as we only had to approach management with our problems. Indeed some things did change. A new heating system was installed, a £6 pay rise was granted, but no promises made about when the next one might be. And the holidays were extended by five days.
We also got a new manager who was going to be 'more sympathetic. People's ideas about the need for a union began to falter.

What they didn't do anything about was the hectic work load or increasing the number of staff. We were still constantly press-urised into working overtime. On Thursday 14th June three printers. one only 16 years of age

cont. p 6

# MAU - MAUING THE KENYONS

## Tamesides Mr and Mrs BIG

Power, in a Democracy, lies with the people and is willed through the ballot box.

Or so the theory goes.

But Sir George and Lady Kenyon of "Limefield House" Chapel Street, Hyde are living proof that the theory is wrong.

Through a lifetime of big business dealings, through contacts made on scores of influential committees, through the patronage of anonymous politicians and civil servants, in short by making friends and influencing people, Sir George and his lady-wife, Christine, have accumulated more power over the lives of ordinary people in Tameside than a local councillor or M.P. would dare to dream of.

And not a single democratic vote has ever been cast in their favour at a local election.

The basis of the Kenyon Empire is George's success as a capitalist. From relatively small beginings with the Tameside based family firm - William Kenyon and Sons - he has become one of the country's leading industrialists.

Until June he was the Chairman of Tootal Ltd., the multi-national Manchester-based textile company.

In 1978 the 26 different brands of textile products made and sold by Tootals 30,000 workers in 24 subsidiary companies from the Phillipines to Nigeria, made, for Sir George and his six fellow board members, a net profit of nearly £10,000,000 contributing to an existing share capital of £54,000,000. Tootals is not a corner shop.

Sir George retired as Chairman last month because "of increased business commitments". These include his directorship on the London-based Williams and Glyns Bank (share capital £33,750,000) and its giant parent company The National and Commercial Banking Group (capital £60,000,000).

In 1978 the board of National and Commercial made a £2,000 donation to a dubious right-wing group known as "The National Economic League" (N.E.L.). The N.E.L. is a propoganda organisation dedicated to "The preservation of personal freedom and private enterprise". But according to a report in the Guardian of June 78 the N.E.L. also keeps a blacklist of active trades unionists and so-called "subversiwes" which is made available to "subscribers" on an ex-directory telephone number.

Kenyon's other interests include his directorship on The Manchester Ship Canal Company (authorised share capital £8,000,000). The Ship Canal Company's Bankers are Williams and Glyns.

### CONTACTS

From the moment he took over the family firm Sir George's business activities brought him into contact with influential local people and, later on, powerful London-based politicians and civil servants, with immense powers of patronage. From the late 1950's onwards this patronage began to be extended towards Sir George, and through him, to his wife.

In 1957 George was made a "General Commissioner for the Inland Revenue".

In 1962 he was appointed to the Manchester Regional Hospital Board which was, at that time, the controlling body for the Health Service in much of the North West. George resigned in 1968 but his mantle was taken up by Christine in 1974 when she was appointed Chairwoman of the Tameside Area Health Authority (TAHA) by "The Secretary of State". The TAHA is responsible for formulating long-term plans and allocating resources for all the hospitals and clinics in Tameside.

In 1962 George found himself on the Buildings Committee of the Manchester University, his old alma mater. He was quickly made treasurer, and in 1970 Chairman of the University Council; the supreme governing body on the 20,000 plus student campus. Since that time the Kenyon business expertise has clearly played a part in building up the University's considerable investment portfolio. Out of a total investment of over £15,000,000 (including 109,393 holding in Tootals) no less than £9,000,000 is invested in companies with subsidiaries in South Africa. Between 1970 and 1977 the University's investment in these companies increased by 50%

It is possible that Sir George caught his apparent enthusiasm for South African Investments from his close associate Sir William Mather (of Mather and Platt fame) who not only belongs to the same gentlemans club as George (St.James' on Charlotte Street, Manchester) but is also a fellow director of the Manchester Ship Canal Company and sits on the Manchester University Court. Sir William came back from a visit to South Africa in 1970 singing its praises, noting its "above average prosperity" and condemning "Those idealists who think

cont. page 6

# TAMESIDE COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

WHEN THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE WAS RE-ORGANISED, THE GOVERNMENT SET UP COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCILS: " TO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ". TAMESIDE CHC HAS BEEN GOING FIVE YEARS - HUNDREDS OF MEETINGS LATER, IT'S WORTH ASKING WHAT IT ALL ACHIEVES.

## A Waste of Time?

## The Committee

There are 30 un-paid appointments to the CHC: 15 by Tameside; 10 by voluntary organisations; and 5 by the NHS. The CHC has two members of staff and it all costs about £16,500 a year to run.
The CHC's offices are stuck away on the second floor of dingy Woodhead House, Market St. in Hyde. Unlike many other CHC's who have a shop-front in the town centre, our CHC is virtually impossible to get to by the disabled. There is some talk of moving into the ground floor of the Corporation St. Clinic - but it is the Area Health Authority who will decide.

Mr. W. G. Downs
Secretary to the Council

## Attendance

An attendance record is in the back of their annual report. It reveals that only 8 members could really be described as keen, five of these are from the voluntary sector. The Chairman is Kathleen Grundy from the WRVS: she had the commitment and the time to go to a staggering 47 out of a possible 52 meetings in a year.
Many Councillors appear not to have the time/inclination to go along. In fact it is the established voluntary groups who are most active: Catholic welfare Societies, Family Planning Assoc., St. John's Ambulance, etc.

Mrs. K. Grundy - Chairman

## Representative

Recently, Tom Pendry M.P. was quoted as saying that he did not feel the CHC represented the population at large. And there have been some problems in the past. Jack Robinshaw was appointed Trades Council delegate to the CHC when he retired from work, he also resigned from the Trades Council. They naturally wanted to appoint another delegate who would report back to the Trades Council, and so they asked Jack to stand down from the CHC.
He refused on the grounds that once he had been appointed, he was on the CHC regardless: he is now down as an NHS appointment, and says he represents the Job Centres!

## More Meetings

The CHC meets 13 times a year and it is open to the press and public Various sub-groups meet in between each CHC session. They talk: about many NHS matters; and they go on outings: to hospitals and centres in the area. They are allowed to observe AHA meetings, and are invited to attend (some) Family Practitioner Committees. When asked what all this committee-go-round achieves, one CHC member replied: 'The effect it has is minimal.'

## Powerless

Tameside Community Health Council is a talk shop: it has no statutory power to enforce anything it recommends. Talking with CHC members and with Norman Downs, the full-time secretary, they all were very frustrated at the way the AHA can (and does) ignore everything they say.
Jack Robinshaw was pleased they had been able to get wards brightened up and toilet seats put in. Another member, John Swiffin, was proud of their stand against the 'Kingston stink' in Hyde.
But CHC has done nothing to stop the serious problems in our local health services - clinics are to be closed, home visits for chiropody are stopped, nurses are under-staffed etc.
The NHS is about to face a round of even bigger cash cut-backs: the CHC has made no preparation to fight these cuts.

## Control

The composition of both the AHA and the CHCleaves the Tories in control.
No wonder the CHC does nothing to embarrass Lady K's AHA. Instead it seems content to remain a glorified League of Friends, frittering away its members commitment, time and energy.
At least the League of Friends can sell you a mars bar.

cont. page 6

# Hard Times for land barons

A LOCAL FARMER HAS WON HIS YEAR LONG BATTLE AGAINST EVICTION - UPSETTING THE MONEY-MAKING PLANS OF ONE OF TAMESIDES BIGGEST ABSENTEE LANDLORDS.

Last month an agricultural tribunal granted Droylsden farmer Reg Cooke the tenancy of Cinderland farm, near Ashton Moss.
Mr. Cookes fight to retain control of the family farm began in April 1978 when he received notice to quit only two weeks after the death of his father, the previous tenant (see Eye 3).
Mr. Cookes landlords are 'THE TRUSTEES OF LORD DERAMORES ASHTON U LYNE ESTATES.'
The present Lord Deramore is Richard, Arthur de Yarburgh Bateson, who lives in the family mansion at Pickering, Yorks.
Deramore's Trustees wanted Reg Cooke out so that they could knock down his listed farm and build a private housing development on the site. The money made from this and similar ventures was to have been used to 'rationalise' other small tenant farms - noteable in the Lees Rd. area of Ashton, with the intention of increasing the profits made from the Trust's massive Tameside land-ownings.

## Set-backs

The Cooke affair was not the first set back to this master scheme.
In February Deramore's application to build a private housing estate on green-belt land around Ashton Golf Club was rejected by the Planning Committee.
And in May, after Labour took control in Tameside their new Housing Chairman Geoff Brierley announced an end to the Tory practice of parcelling out council and green belt land to private speculators.
In May the groans emanating from the Ashton offices of Deramore's Tameside agents - Cordingley's must have been long and bitter, for the change of council policy may well have put paid not only to the profitable plans of Lord Deramore but also those of another Cordingley client, Mrs. Edna Bissel.
Mrs. Bissel's trustees own almost as much of Tameside as Lord Deramore including large areas of off-limits moor land, and the historically noteworthy but rapidly rotting, staley Hall in Mossley.
They had engaged David Cordingley JP and his partner Ashton Rotary Chairman Bernard C. Higginbottom to further their interests in Tameside. Mrs. Bissels latest plan was to take advantage of the new M/cr outer ring road which will almost certainly cross the moss at some point, making it an ideal site for new factories.

Before the change of council the chances of the Bissel plan being accepted were good. Just prior to the election the Tory majority rejected a Labour attempt to block once and for all that the moss should remain green belt and agricultural.
With a new council her chances are not so good. Mrs. Bissel is already profiting from the erection of a new ICL factory on her land just across the way from the moss in Ashton's run down west end.

## Roland

Another local property speculator who, by chance happens to be building an estate of expensive private dwellings close to Mrs. Bissels ICL development is Roland Bardsley. He is rumoured to have plans to build a motorway motel on the moss near his 'Carriages' night spot.
No planning application for such a scheme has been recieved from Bardsley.
But, if and when he does finallyget around to it he will probably be regretting the political changes which threw Tory leader Colin Grantham from power. For Colin has given favourable attention to Bardsley planning applications in the past.

# RENT-FREE BAT?

A GIANT MULT NATIONAL CORPORATION COULD OCCUPY THE ENTIRE GROUND FLOOR OF TAMESIDES 11 MILLION POUND CIVIC COMPLEX SCOTT FREE !

The contract signed last May by executives of International Stores Ltd. (a subsidiary of British American Tobacco) for the ground floor of the new civic centre contained a clause specifying that a car park and walkway had to be built as part of the deal.

The car park was to have been built by GMC transport above their new bus station But the public spending cuts planned by the Tory Govt. make it extremely unlikely that GMC will have the funds to go ahead with their plans. And, if the new bus station car park is not built International Stores could legally claim that Tameside had not fulfilled its part of the bargain and refuse to pay rent.

This would be extremely embarassing for the new Labour Council who were not keen on the complex to begin with. They had their own expensive projects in mind and after the election Labour's leaders spent hours pouring over the civic complex contract looking for a way of backing down on the whole project

There was none.

# KENYONS

from p.3

that the best way to influence other countries is to isolate them".

Under Sir George's Chairmanship the Manchester University has certainly not taken the road of "misguided" idealism.

Perhaps it was Sir William Mather who stimulated George Kenyon's interest in Environmental matters. At any rate both these prominent worthies are on the controlling body of "The Civic Trust for the North West" an organisation which tries to "eliminate and prevent ugliness". Fellow committee members include Media Magnate, Alexandre Bernstein, the Deputy Chairman of the Granada TV Group, and Sebastian Basil Joseph Ziani Ferranti who is Chairman of Ferranti the electronics giant.

From the late 1960's the Kenyons began to go in for Justice in a big way.

In 1969 George was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Cheshire and in 1973 he was made Sherrif of Cheshire. Both these appointments were made by "The Crown".

The High Sherrif of Cheshire in 1969 was one Sir William Mather. In Tudor times the High Sherrif used to command the local militia when the plebs got restless. But nowadays he has to content himself with "executing the writs tial JPs to be submitted for approval to The Lord Chancellor, who rarely rejects submissions. So, in effect the and orders of the High Court". The Lord Lieutenants office is much more interesting. It has the power to choose (with the help of an anonymous "advisory committee") the names of poten- Lord Lieutenant and his deputy have the power to determine the social and political make-up of the local Magistrates bench.

Sir George has himself been a JP since 1959. He was made Chairman of the South Tameside Bench in 1974. His wife, Christine, is the Chairwomam of the South Tameside Juvenile Bench. Both almost certainly sit on the present Lord Lieutenants "advisory committee". In any case they have tremendous personal influence over the bench and magisterial recommendations from them are almost certain to be accepted. This gives them considerable influence over the councillors, rotarians, business men and charitable ladies who are ambitious to sit in judgement on their fellows. Their magisterial careers, and, more important, the quality of justice in Tameside, is, very largely, in the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Kenyon.

THERE ARE FEW AREAS OF LOCAL LIFE THAT HAVE NOT BEEN TOUCHED BY THE KENYONS. IN HEALTH AND JUSTICE, TAXATION, THE ENVIRONMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND LOCAL POLITICS. THEY HAVE, OR HAVE HAD, A POWERFUL SAY.

TAMESIDE EYE IS NOT TRYING TO DECIDE WHETHER THAT SAY WAS WISE OR NOT, THAT IS NOT THE ISSUE. THE ISSUE IS WHETHER ANY TWO PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO HAVE SUCH A SAY IN THE FIRST PLACE. THE CASE OF THE KENYONS PROVES OR SEEMS TO PROVE, THAT THE FACADE OF OUR MODERN DEMOCRACY STILL HIDES THE OLD ROTTING FEUDALISM IT IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE REPLACED.

# SWEAT SHOP

from p.2

worked a normal eight hour day, returned at one p.m. and worked until ten a.m. the following day. We complained about the overtime'

The response was swift and direct. Maggie was sacked and two others threatened with dismissal. Even after this staff were uncertain about a union. Since their first meeting SOGAT had made no follow up contact or offered further advice, simply saying that it was up to individuals to make up their minds. Eventually one of the printers joined after being threatened with instant dismissal if he failed to produce sufficient work on a particular day. The point was made the rest of the staff signed up as well. Maggies's case goes before an industrial tribunal with the help of SOGAT later in the summer.

# TAMESIDE COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

from p.4

## Other CHC's

Elsewhere in the country CHC's are making a real impact on their area. Some of them are leading the fight against hospital closures and other service cut backs, by organising petitions, rallies, AHA and RHA lobbies, leafleting etc. Others, like Hackney, and the City CHC in London, have printed guides on what the NHS has to offer and where to get it. They have succeeded in informing the public what is happening to their health service, and made sure the NHS's top- heavy administration does not always get its own way.

ABORTION Advice?
TELEPHONE
Suite F
57 Hilton Street
Manchester M1 2EJ
061-236 7777
24 hour answering service
BPAS Charitable Trust.
for Pregnancy Testing, Abortion and Sterilisations.
Operations arranged after medical consultation
at our own non-profit clinics.

Since my shock-horror exclusive revelation in EYE 6 of The Election Meeting That Never Was (except in the pages of the 'Reporter'). I have been overwhelmed by at least one demand to name names and dates. Well, after weeks of painstaking investigation it can now be revealed that the meeting in question WAS to have been addressed by Ashton's Labour MP "Radical" Robert Sheldon. But at the last minute had to be cancelled because Bob couldn't turn up, or some such thing. But the report of the meeting was written anyway, sent in to the Reporter, and, with Roberts say-so, duly published. And it was SO convincing that several prominent Labourites who WEREN'T mentioned in this entirely imaginary account were to be heard complaining afterwards. They too wanted, like Robert, to become characters in this endearing fiction.

Some BAD news and some GOOD news.

The BAD news is that Ashton Central Library is spending ratepayers money on a regular order of that scurrilous scandal sheet TAMESIDE EYE.

Ever since I discovered this shocking fact from a Librarian friend of mine, I have been making regular checks at the library and, although I did once glimpse a copy of this shameless rag hidden away behind the librarian's desk, I have, thankfully, NEVER seen it on open display with all the other magazines in the reference section.

Clearly someone at Libraries and Arts feels that impressionable Tamesiders should not be exposed to the seamy side of our local life this muck-raking journal delights to expose. Quite right too! I only hope that our new Labour Chairperson of Libraries and Arts, the opera loving Mrs. Swiffin, does not allow any fatuous notions of free speech to tempt her to lift this unofficial but plainly necessary censorship.

Tameside's Social Workers are not happy. Tom Foster , Direktor of Social Services, has become so paranoid about their monthly meetings that he has banned them. Usually, the social workers meet for 1½ hours in company time to swop notes and share their problems. It appears Foster dislikes the criticisms and bright ideas that emerge from these sessions and as they are 'not officially recognised' they can no longer meet on Tameside's time.

RADICAL BOB AND A FRIEND
See item one.

I was SO pleased to read that Councillor Roy Oldham, Chairman of Tameside Education Committee and fierce apostle of Comprehensivisation, sent his 19 year old genius son to a direct grant school when he was 11. Only the most churlish of egalitarians could accuse Roy of hypocrisy in this matter. For was his son not reading Kierkegard in the womb, and tap-dancing at three weeks? And which of our appallingly limited state grammar schools is prepared to teach brain surgery to toddlers? No, it HAD to be a direct grant for Roy's genius son. But, I speculate, just how many more of the offspring of our intellectually gigantic Labour Councillors are at this very moment exercising their prodigious neurons at Direct Grant or Public schools? How many fagging at E ton? How many primping and curtsying at Swiss finishing schools? How many swinging in the trees at Goolygong, Australia, where once our very own Prince Charles expended his youth? Whilst - oh, horrible injustice! the head-banging idiot sons and daughters of our ousted Tories rot in our own second-rate grammar schools, soon, thankfully, to be destroyed into Comprehensives by Councillor Oldham? Perhaps that fearless seeker after truth - The Reporter - will launch an investigation into this urgent matter.

Paranoia is to The Left as Hoemophilia was to Queen Victoria.

So it is with some reservations that I pass on this strange tale of weird mid-night 'phone calls, concealed voices and righteous indignation.

The Ashton Labour Party have recently received a confidential letter of complaint from the Tameside Capaign Against Racism and Facism (CARF).

The letter alleges that the Assistant Secretary of the Ashton LP - to wit one John Forrest - did knowingly ring up CARF Chairman Peter Jepson (who is also a member of the Ashton LP) at 1-15 a.m. on Wednesday 25th April, 1979 and did wilfully pretend to be a member of the National Front.

The letter also alleges that a similarly horrific call was received by the mother of John Evans, the LP election agent.

John Forrest - the alleged mimic - appears to have denied this grave allegation.

The CARF memo offers no explanation as to WHY a leading member of a local Labour Party should pretend to be a member of the National Front at 1-15 a.m. on a Wednesday morning. Still less does it offer an explanation as to why that same person should then ring up the same house only 10 minutes later pretending to be himself.

But an anonymous biro'd note accompanying our copy of the memo does raise the scarifying possibility that this same John Forrest may, in fact be, a Fascist infiltrator or even, a police spy.

Horrible most Horrible! But why stop there?

Couldn't the Ashton Labour Party itself be a front organisation for Neo-Nazism? ( I have seen LP members openly wearing Wellington boots in the streets of Tameside).

Might not CARF be a front organisation for that well-known group of neo-nazi beasts, "The Ashton Labour Party" ? Isn't it common knowledge that the GPO is REALLY the GPU ? For, I have seen, with my very own eyes, Tameside postmentWITH SNOW ON THEIR BOOTS! No-one is to be trusted! LEAST OF ALL OLD LADIES WEARING BLUE NYLON RAIN-MACS!

Yours suspiciously,

Wretch

# SCHOOLS IN THE BALANCE

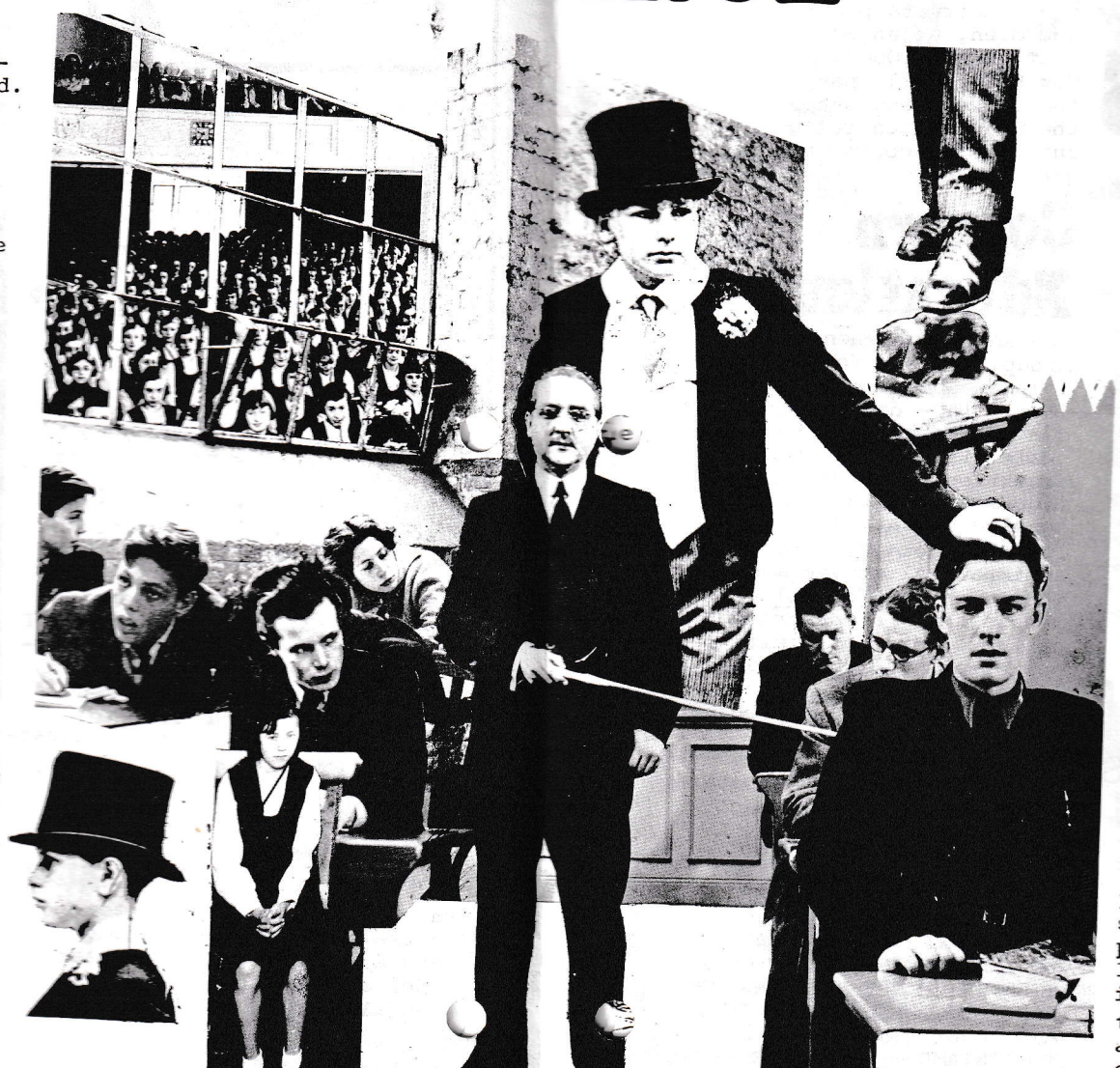
## HE LENGTHY LOCAL RE-EXAMINES THE HENSIVE SCHOOLS

nsivisation, the legality Tameside keeping it and aying 'selective' is bious.

y Oldham, Chairman of ucation in Tameside, is nfident that the comprehen- ve plans cannot be scotched. told an Eye reporter that nce the '76 plans were proved, Carlisle can only OP Tameside from putting em into action by taking em to court, where the urt will decide whether the ans are still reasonable ree years on.

t will the Tory Govern- nt want to take Tameside court in the coming win- r? There'll doubtless be ssure from the Grammar ool fanatics - but Carl- e might just remember t happened when the last rt.and Tameside had a al battle over schools e council won). And tcher's crew might just having problems with ir 'steal from the poor, e to the rich - and starve etly' policies by then not fancy an extra blem.

when Oldham meets Carlisle er this month, Carlisle ld well be willing to neg- ate- for example, agreeing pass Tameside's comprehen- e plans, if Tameside, to p him happy, resubmits for his approval. That give the anti-compre- sive groups a couple of ths to make a fuss in, save isle's face and allow eside comprehensives to eed as planned.
tics is the name of the .



# ENSIVES: FALLING STANDA

ers with no qualifications been dramatically reduced. 971, 35.9% of all students ngland attended comprehen- e schools; b 1977 the re had risen to 73.8%. 70-71, 44% of all school ers had NO qualifications. 76-77 only 15.4% had . So the number of school ers nationally with no ifications has been ced from nearly half, nder a sixth, within years; the six years ng which comprehensive ation has started to uce results.

oser breakdown of figures shows that whilst the number of school leavers has risen yearly, the number of unqualified leavers has steadily fallen.

| | 1966-7 | 1974-5 |
|---|---|---|
| No. of leavers | 692,500 | 804,000 |
| Unqualified leavers | 425,800 | 401,800 |
| CSE's(grades 2 down) | 108,000 | 201,200 |
| 'O' levels (Inc.Gr.1 CSE) | 52,900 | 66,700 |
| One 'A' level | 23,100 | 30,700 |
| Two or more A lvls. | 82,600 | 103,600 |

(Statistics from CSO's 'Social Trends 9', 1979 edit. and 'Education statistics for the U.K. 1975' both published by H.M.S.O.)

## LOCAL FIGURES

The myth that Grammar schools, with their bright kids, get better results from them than comprehensives who don't know how to teach bright kids is sadly disproved by these figures from one Tameside Grammar School (which shall remain nameless).
'O' level pass figures (any grade) for 1978 were as follows:
Maths 78 (out of 112 entrants - a failure rate of 31%)
Eng.Lit. 50 (out of 108 - a 54% failure).
Music O (out of 8, a 100%

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Frenc
failu
Chemi
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8 TAMESIDE EYE REVIEWS THE LENGTHY LOCAL EDUCATION DISPUTE AND RE-EXAMINES THE ARGUMENTS FOR COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS

# 11+ POLITICS

Tameside's Labour Council have been told by the Secretary of State for Education and Science, Mark Carlisle, that they must resubmit their plans for comprehensive schools- despite the fact that those plans were PASSED 3 YEARS AGO. Carlisle's demand is questionable, and Labour are determined to fight to keep their plans, on which 5½million pounds have already been spent, converting buildings and appointing new tachers. To go comprehensive now will not cost any more.

The plans include
*Building of 3 new comprehensive schools (now completed).

*Abolition of 5 grammar schools, 3 to become comprehensives and 2 (Hyde and Ashton) 6th form colleges.

*16 secondary moderns to become comprehensives.

*All comprehensives to cater for ages 11-16, the 6th form colleges and the tech. to cater for 16-18 year olds.

When the Tory council were elected in '76 the plans were ignored and schools remained selective. Vast amounts of money were wasted as teachers on contracts drew salaries for work which they could only do when the schools became comprehensive. Since some of the money spent on improvements came from a Govt. fund of 25 million pounds earmarked for comprehensivisation, the legality of Tameside keeping it and staying 'selective' is dubious.

Roy Oldham, Chairman of Education in Tameside, is confident that the comprehensive plans cannot be scotched. He told an Eye reporter that since the '76 plans were approved, Carlisle can only STOP Tameside from putting them into action by taking them to court, where the court will decide whether the plans are still reasonable three years on.
But will the Tory Government want to take Tameside to court in the coming winter? There'll doubtless be pressure from the Grammar school fanatics - but Carlisle might just remember what happened when the last Govt.and Tameside had a legal battle over schools (the council won). And Thatcher's crew might just be having problems with their 'steal from the poor, give to the rich - and starve quietly' policies by then and not fancy an extra problem.

So, when Oldham meets Carlisle later this month, Carlisle could well be willing to negotiate- for example, agreeing to pass Tameside's comprehensive plans, if Tameside, to keep him happy, resubmits them for his approval. That will give the anti-comprehensive groups a couple of months to make a fuss in, save Carlisle's face and allow Tameside comprehensives to proceed as planned.
Politics is the name of the game.

# SCHOOL BA

# COMPREHENSIVES: FALL

The "falling standards" myth is a favourite argument of those who believe in selective education. Facts show how wrong they are ( It is important to remember that one would expect grammar schools with specially selected 'academic children to have a higher percentage of good exam results than comprehensives, teaching an all-ability intake.) Over the past 10 years, the majority of schools in England have changed from being Grammar/ Secondary modern to comprehensive - and thanks to this change, the number of school leavers with no qualifications has been dramatically reduced. In 1971, 35.9% of all students in England attended comprehensive schools; b 1977 the figure had risen to 73.8%. In '70-71, 44% of all school leavers had NO qualifications. In '76-77 only 15.4% had none. So the number of school leavers nationally with no qualifications has been reduced from nearly half, to under a sixth, within six years; the six years during which comprehensive education has started to produce results.
A closer breakdown of figures shows that whilst the number of school leavers has risen yearly, the number of unqualified leavers has steadily fallen.

| | 1966-7 |
|---|---|
| No. of leavers | 692,500 |
| Unqualified leavers | 425,800 |
| CSE's(grades 2 down) | 108,000 |
| 'O' levels (Inc.Gr.1 CSE) | 52,900 |
| One 'A' level | 23,100 |
| Two or more A lvls. | 82,600 |

(Statistics from CSO's 'Social T 1979 edit. and 'Education stati the U.K. 1975' both published by

# S IN THE ANCE

# GRAMMAR SCHOOL MYTHS

Whose choice ?
What qualifies a child for a grammar school? The Tory party has made much of the idea of parental choice. In fact, in a selective system, parents have no choice. The pamphlet Tameside Tory Council published for parents of 11 year olds (Which school 1978) explains the key factors determining a child's secondary education:
1.'The primary school head teacher's order of suitability' i.e. the head makes a list of all children in order of 'suitability' (cleverness? articulacy? Social skills? tidy clothes? polite behaviour?)
2. 'Verbal reasoning score' (11 plus).

3. Head's opinion of 'what type of education is best suited to the child' (this carries more weight than the 11 plus score).
4. 'Pupil's record card.'

BUT
Children do not display their academic potential at 11. There are slow and fast developers, individuals go through stages of interest and keenness.

It is recognised that girls score more highly in the 11 plus than boys, and pass levels are adjusted accordingly. This recognition that people's abilities vary at different stages in their development, if carried to its logical conclusion, makes nonsense of the exam.

An 11 plus failure can develop into a bright keen pupil at 14, and draw ahead of his grammar school peers.
So the exam discriminates between those who are 'bright' (according to the limited definition of the 11 plus) at the age of 11, and those who are not.
It can claim no wider scope.

## POWER

Also disturbing is the degree of power vested in the primary school teachers and heads. All teachers have likes and dislikes, prejudices. Yet it is finally up to them whether a child attends grammar or secondary school, a choice which affects the rest of the child's working and social life.
In '77, 14,000 grammar school pupils went on to university degree or teacher training courses, compared with 1,000 from secondary moderns although the intake of secondary moderns was many times greater.

## THE FAILURE TRAP

The 11 plus pass or fail label is powerful and lasting magic.
Depressing academic studies describe the self-fulfilling prophecy of labelling; a 'failure' behaves like one, living up to his own and teacher's worst expectations.

# NG STANDARDS ?

## LOCAL FIGURES

74-5
4,000
,800
,200
,700
,700
,600
9',
for
.O.)

The myth that Grammar schools, with their bright kids, get better results from them than comprehensives who don't know how to teach bright kids is sadly disproved by these figures from one Tameside Grammar School (which shall remain nameless).
'O' level pass figures (any grade) for 1978 were as follows:
Maths 78 (out of 112 entrants - a failure rate of 31%)
Eng.Lit. 50 (out of 108 - a 54% failure).
Music O (out of 8, a 100% failure).
French 25 (out of 74, a 66% failure)
Chemistry 30 (out of 65, a 53% failure)

Of 42 entrants for CSE exams, not one gained a grade one.
What does this dismal record tell us?
Possibly that the 11 plus is not a sure fire guide to a childs later academic ability.
Certainly, that the quality of education provided - calibre of teachers, facilities and morale of the school - is much more important than the name, be it secondary modern, grammar or comprehensive.
Cllr. Roy Oldham claims that judging by exam results alone, one would guess that one particular Tameside secondary modern had a higher ability intake than the anonymous grammar school.

# US and THEM

SO WHY COMPREHENSIVES?
Kids need to mix and learn with others who are DIFFERENT from them. They need to learn to respect different abilities,

COMPREHENSIVES: FALLING STANDARDS?
CONT. FROM P.9

different backgrounds, different values - not to be carefully sheltered from knowledge of each other. If schooling is education for life, education in a grammar or secondary modern can only be education for half a life. And from ignorance of those who are not 'like us' always, grows hatred. 'Discrimination' is a dirty word, but it means the same as 'selection' - it's the principle behind selective education, and it plants that principle firmly in the minds of those who go through its mill. Selective education breeds 'us' and 'them', with a wide gap in between.

Even in a streamed comprehensive, kids share social activities and non-academic subjects with 'thickoes' and 'snobs'. They see the strengths and weaknesses of these alien creatures, and sometimes recognise them as human. If tolerance can't begin in school it is pious but futile to hope kids will grow into it.

Some catchment areas seem to guarantee an almost solidly grammar or secondary modern intake. Oldham insists that there will be no zoning for the Tameside comprehensives, and that parents will be free to send their child to any school.

That creates more problems- transport, and emergence of favourite, over-subscribed schools, but it means that in a situation of falling rolls, schools are in competition with each other for kids, and will be striving to impress parents. That's not a recipe for falling standards.

# GRAND PLANS - EMPTY POCKETS

Labour have already made clear their intention to drag Tameside's schools' standards upwards: they are one of the few authorities in the country which has not put a freeze on teachers' appointments; leaving teachers are replaced and new posts are still being created (6 peripatetic maths teachers to give remedial help announced early in June). They intend to use the falling birth rate to reduce pupil/teacher ratios (compare this with neighbouring Derbyshire, where all teacher recruitment barring 'exceptional cases' has been stopped, or with Liverpool where 225 teaching jobs are threatened with the chop.)

## COPING WITH GENIUS

There will be special provision within the comprehensive system for extremely bright children (1-2% of the population, according to Oldham, who classes these kids as a problem similar to remedial and ESN kids, easily bored and potentially disruptive.) This is seen as special treatment for a special problem - ' no way would I split these kids off into an elitist camp' says Oldham.

## MALADJUSTED

There are also plans afoot to buy Asplands for a school for about 25 maladjusted kids (at present being ferried round the country to places like Aberdeen, at an annual cost of £150,000).

How Labour will pay for these excellent schemes, in the face of central govt. cuts, is of course an open question.

# Concern for Education?

The anti-comprehensive group, Concern for Education, have been conducting a door - to - door referendum in Tameside, which they claim will back up their assertions that most Tamesiders are against comprehensive education.

Their fitness to carry out an impartial survey and their concern for all children is amply demonstrated by these words of their spokeswoman, Mrs. Barbara Masters.

'We don't want a comprehensive system at all. My daughter has got a place at a grammar school and that's where we intend her to go.'

IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE IN THIS CONTEXT THAT THE POLLING OFFICER FOR THE REFERENDUM IS DONALD THORPE, THE EX CHAIRMAN OF THE TORY EDUCATION COMMITTEE WHICH REVERSED LABOUR'S EARLIER COMPREHENSIVE PLANS AND FOUGHT THEM TO A STANDSTILL IN THE HIGH COURT.

WHAT PRICE OBJECTIVITY ?

# SOUTH AFRICA

# AND THEN TO

# RHODESIA

A POSTSCRIPT TO LAST MONTH'S CENTRE-PAGE SPREAD ON TAMESIDE'S FIRMS WHO PROFIT FROM INVESTMENTS IN RHODESIA AND S.AFRICA.

In 1977 Mr W.A.de Vigier, Chairman of Acrow, the giant multinational owner of the local 'Adamson' group of companies went on a tour of his Southern African interests. And, judging from the smiles on the faces of de Vigier and Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith, all was deemed to be well.
At least, for them.

Mr. Corcoran says.....

# TOOLS!

A ROUND UP OF RUCTIONS IN LOCAL ENGINEERING FIRMS

## Glynwed, Audshaw

Maintainance engineers (AUEW/EFPTU) are into the third week of a rather ineffectual strike: they have agreed pay settlement but they are in dispute over back pay.
The strikers are not calling out fellow AUEW members in the factory (which is poorly unionised anyway): 'We are skilled, they're manual.' They have also agreed to undertake 'safety' work. However, a factory like Glynwed, Audenshaw can only survive without maintainance workers for a short time. So, either the strikers are doing more than mere 'safety' work, or maintainance is being done by non-strikers.

## Adamsons

Adamson Containers, Reddish, was moved from Dukinfield by ACROW about a year ago. ACROW had a Govt.grant of about £¾ m. for building the new factory. The Dukinfield workforce didn't want to move to Reddish, but the firm cajoled and persuaded them. The factory opened a year ago, and has been in production for about 9 months.

Earlier this year it became obvious to the stewards at the container factory that the order book was not as full as they had originally been led to believe. They therefore decided to try to protect jobs by going for a low pay rise - and 6% was agreed in early June. The stewards signed the agreement with the management at 3p.m. At 3.30pm they were called back in and told that because of low orders everyone was being put on a 3-day week.
The reaction in the works was very bitter and people regretted having gone for the low pay rise, given Corcoran's (Man.Director) cynical attitude. Corcoran has since gone on to announce 45 redundancies. (out of the work force of 270) and blamed previous disputes and the lorry driver's strike for the sackings.
Last year, Roy Hattersley visited the factory, whilst he was a Govt.minister. He assured everyone that there was plenty of work....

As we go to press, the stewards are implementing the agreed proceedures and the matter is in the hands of the CSEU and EEF full time officials. This delaying tactic may give as little as 2 months grace - things look very bleak.

STOP PRESS: GLYNWED dispute now over.

The much publicised concern of some of our leading Conservative politicians for 'standards' in education does not - it appears-extend as far as regular attendances at meetings of school governing bodies.

No fewer than nine governorships at Tameside Schools have fallen vacant recently because the Tories who held them had not attended a meeting for over 12 months.

The truants include such notables as Councillor John Bell (Werneth Ward, Hyde) who has been given the boot from the governors of a school in Gee Cross, and ex-councillor Mrs. Marion Tracey (Denton E.N. and N.E.) who used to be a governor at Egerton Park Secondary. Another leading Tory educationalist, Donald Thorpe - who is at present orchestrating the fight to retain Tameside's creaking Grammar schools - was not only sacked for non-attendances at governors meetings at Holden Clough Primary, but also had a motion of censure passed against him.

The ruling Labour group in Council have now replaced ALL these naughty ex- governors with nominations of its own. They have also changed the political ratio on governing bodies. Under the Tories there were always three Tory appointments to every two Labour. Now, there are to be four Labour to every Tory. Ex-Tory leader Colin Grantham regards this move as 'unfair'. Labour education boss Roy Oldham justifies it on the grounds that 'The time for moderation is over'.

New Tory leader Alan Fearn came all the way up from Devon, where he had been on holiday, to attend the last full Tameside Council meeting. Unkind rumour has it that he did not trust his deputy, ex-mayor, Peter Greenhough to handle the major education debate competently. In the event jet-lagged Alan was himself not on top form.

Our observer noted that he used the phrase 'This is a disgrace to the name of Tameside' no fewer than 9 times, before returning to Devon the same night.
Where is the Churchillian Alan we used to know? Or is it just that Devon cream and scrumpy does not agree with him?

The new Labour Council are, as we all know, going to perform miracles. Starved of money by the Tory Govt. they will, like David Nixon produce wonders from nothing. In the event the resemblance is more likely to be with Tommy Cooper.
For example, it has been announced publically that Labour will build 900 new houses a year. But Labour high-ups are now admitting privately that there never was a chance of meeting this target.

The naughty National Front failed to return their election expenses on time after the last local election. Labourites are wondering why Spiers, as Chief Returning Officer, hasn't yet taken any legal action over this misdemeanour.

# page twelve

A PAGE FOR ORIGINAL STORIES, POEMS, DRAWINGS AND PHOTOS.

PLEASE SEND YOUR WORK TO ~ T.EYE C/O 109 OXFORD RD. MANCHESTER 1.

KIDS WRITINGS AND DRAWINGS ARE ALSO WELCOME

# waking

It was spring, and a hot sun had been beating against the bedroom window for several hours already.
The curtains were thick, letting in heat but little light and the room inside was dark and stifling; all its edges glowing faintly red.
In the bed, a 12 year old boy was emerging from a long sleep, uneasily. He had been living through a vivid dream but now it was fading. In these instants between deep sleep and full awakening he was like an exhausted swimmer struggling on the margins of sea and shore, clutching at slipping sands but slowly, inevitably, dragged backwards; drowning in consciousness.
He was awake now, but kept his eyes tightly closed. All but the faintest echo of his dream had gone, leaving in its place a hollow sense of irredeemable loss.
He squirmed, arched his body, yawned and then, reluctantly opened his eyes. The day had made ground in the shadowy room. He could make out faint shapes of silent objects and a myriad of dust-motes dancing in emptiness, as if alive.
He pulled the bed-clothes tighter round himself, despite the heat. He wanted to put off the moment of rising as long as possible. More than anything else he wanted to sleep again and to search, in sleep, for the dream. For it was as if he had been forced, in waking, to make a journey from air and space and glistening light into a claustrophobic hollow cave, with only echoes and his own distorted shadow for company.
Misery gnawed at his guts like hunger.
Eventually he groaned and rose up to sit on the edge of the bed his pale bony body glowing in the rosy dimness, his big feet flat on the floor. He was hot, and sticky all over like a bud.
The bed-clothes around him were in disarray as if something had been struggling blindly in the night.
For long seconds he sat staring into space.

.....

Then he felt a patch of extra stickiness around his groin.
He stood up and peered inside the pants he wore for sleeping in There was a small quantity of white slime, clinging like frog-spawn to the fibre.
It was as if a slug had crawled there in the night, leaving it's trail. He touched the matter with his finger. It was sticky and viscous.
Now it began to ooze slowly down the inside of his pants with slow amoeboid motion, sliding out psuedopodia, into which the main body of matter flowed and then, overflowing, continued in new courses, but always downwards, like animate snot.
There was something horrible in this. Like films he had seen of simple midless life-forms going helplessly about their slithery business; moving, touching and mingling, without motive or desire.
In a panic, he looked about the room for help.
There was no-one. His parents would still be asleep. He could wake them up, but as he opened his mouth to call them he checked himself.
The stuff was his, from him.
There were thin strands of it hanging from him like streamers.
He couldn't call his mother and let her see this slime that had come out of him.
Forcing himself to think calmly he attempted to work out what had happened.
He had not willed this. It was not under his control. It had oozed from him of its own accord, like puss from a wound. Like puss.
It was the symptom of a disease.
He half-sobbed, gazing into the spaces of the room. There would be no cure. He would surely die. This was merely confirmation of what he had suspected for months. It all came together: the misery, the feeling of being picked out, isolated, of being in

some sense fated. He would die, because something terrible was happening to him, and this slime was the first physical symptom. Once again he felt as if he were drowning. His breath seemed to come in loud painful gasps like a man trapped in an iron lung. He clutched at the bed clothes, but the warmth had gone. He was alone with figments.

.....

Some-one shuffled outside the door.
He remembered his nakedness, and the soiled underpants in his hand. He stood up in panic.
The shuffling disappeared downstairs, and the room was silent again. But he continued to stand quite still, listening to a heart-beat.
Then there was another noise, from further away.
A cacophany of terrible screeches as if a multitude of small creatures were going through the agony of prolongued death or birth.
He rushed to the window and dragged the curtains open.
The glass was hard against his face.
The sun was half-way up the sky and the tar on the road was already melting. New leaves were coming out in a green haze around stunted trees, and the weeds in the nearby wasteland were flowering. In the distance goods trains were linking and coupling mechanically. And the sky was colourless behind the sun.
The appalling screeching was everywhere. In trees, in the wasteland below, in stones and wood and earth. But nothing was visible.
An old couple turned into the street and walked with apparent purpose along it, as if everything were only as it should be.
It occured to the boy that he might be mad. That insanity was but a further symptom of his imminent death. It was almost unbearable.
The birds were singing.
Clearly he was mad. Not even the most ordinary thing made sense. The more ordinary the less sense it made. He turned back into the room.

.....

It was as silent as before, its objects as hard and as immobile. The spaces between them gaping vacantly, idiotically, unable to answer his simplestquestion.
The bed was empty, its sheets flung wide apart in crumpled folds like the cast off skin of a larva Its occupant no longer there.
He remembered the woman in The Bible who had come to bury a body in a cave, only to find it gone. The thing in the bed had gone. and he yearned for its return. As if it were something real, a person. He would have started there and then to look for it. But he could not imagine what it was. Nothing he could see, or smell, or touch or hear resembled it. His sensations were only obstacles. So he stood doing nothing, with the sun, now streaming through the open curtains, showing his flesh deathly white like something grown in a secret place.
Familiar noises were drifting up to him. A name was being called repeatedly.
It was his, he had to go down, but he was still clutching the underpants.skulking like a criminal. He was frantic again now, burning with shame and embarrassment. He didn't know what to do.
The slime was his, known only to himself. And he knew nothing about it. Nothing. He would admit nothing..So, he crept furtively into the bathroom holding the pants, with their primeval stain, at arms length.
Then he locked the door, stepped up to the sink and, with a vigorous motion of both hands, turned on the taps and washed the mystery away, out of sight.

mike harris

# i.d.

Butchers and bakers find themselves
Serving various vicious purposes,
Taking themselves away, enduring
Hard ways and strange destinations;
Let's soldier inward, whistling,
Pass those dispossessed
Women and men, running from men,
Their babies at their backs, unrested
With their poor luggage, Dignity a vagrant
Living nowhere, 'though everywhere was vacant,
Who plod to the port and coast for transportation -

Fire from the air shrivels forests, flowers,
The ground unowned swords contains
And shrapnel, broken bone;
And soldiers and sailors bequeath
All their thoughtful skill
To an autistic antagonism;
Brave or not, not really perfection proof;
Pausing to cool sweat on a fair road to death
Mark their own tenuous expirations
As warm as blood, making,
In a morning bitterly cold,
A poetry of breath, and
Compose their own unintelligible letters home.

* * *

When Abel burned and Cain slew
Who then doubted which was true?

II

Meantime, I'm in a garden
Not burned or uprooted
But engaging,
Only brightness falls from the air
And Assurance's dew drops
Breaking thirst
And years roll down my cheeks.
Remember folk myths and fairy tales:
My mistress' eyes are talking mirrors
Which cannot lie or distort,
But show me, from her thought,
Better than I deserve.
We become the garden, grow honesty
Initially ignorant of these things.

* * *

Eve spins, Adam delves:
Who was then without themselves?

lindsay fursland

# EYE ON THE MEDIA

## Rock against Racism Review

DUKINFIELD TOWN HALL 23.6.79
Groups F104 and Armed Force

This concert was held by Rock against Racism to collect funds for 12 people who had been arrested for trying to enter a National Front Meeting in Rochdale. It would have been nice to see punks and freaks enjoying themselves in one place, but it didn't happen that way.
Playing their first RAR gig, heavy metal band F104 started the evening off well with 'Urban Guerilla', an old Hawkwind number. They surprised me by playing the Hot Rods 'Do anything you wanna do' which they did very well. Their Motorhead influenced set was interupted by an angry punk who said the police had been round pubs arresting punks, including 'Armed Force's singer, and asking us to picket the police station until they were released. As a large group of people moved out, F104 dedicated a song called 'Loser' to the police.

F104

At the station 11 people were being held. 'Armed Forces' singer, Muppet was the first to be released because of his commitments. The others were to be released once they had filled their forms in. The police did not intend to press charges because of lack of evidence.
the singer revealed that a few punks had been into the Newmarket pub with chips, the landlord told them they could not eat in the pub and someone in anger had smashed a pint pot and a window.
F104 were still playing when we got back to the Jubilee Hall. The audi ence by then consisted mainly of punks. Muppet went on stage as soon as he arrived as Armed Force had already started to play. Armed Force carried on with a song called 'Attack'. The kids filled the stage as though they were at a Sham 69 gig. During the set overactive punks skidded chairs across the floor and one threw a chair at some people. 'Armed Force' borrowed some of F104's equipment and while the kids were on stage a lead microphone was cut.
F104 were furious over the night's events, and half the group said they were not prepared to play any more RAR gigs.

## Book Review

Something's waiting For You, Baker D. by Patricia Windsor. Published by Penguin Books (Peacock) on26th April. Price 80p.

Monsters from space, a mind-opening drug, sinister thugs small town cops and the grease and grit of New York tenement life in this distinctly American novel.
The adolescent Baker D. escapes from the seedy reality of a single-parentexistence with his soap opera actress mother(who lives in fear of rape and robbery) into a private world inhabited by the Slynacks and a Chandleresque underworld. Fat Mary who literally and cynically sees the world through rose-coloured glasses, but doesn't quite know herself, escapes her own mundane eating-shop background by 'sleutning'interesting looking people.
She chooses Baker D. to follow, and as the plot thickens is drawn with him into the real world of theft and kidnapping.
The book is well-written, often slick in style, often humourously raw, and is full of symbols for those who enjoy looking. Talk of piss, penises and anal retention (constipation) is mixed naturally with almost Blytonish adventure - a combination which points to the meaning of the book, for it is about the necessary growth away from a childish fantasy life towards an appreciation of a reality which is potentially harsher but also more satisfying than anything fantasy can offer. Baker D. must learn that life isn't 'like soap operas' or received media ideas. Yet here too the book is intentionally ironic: the plot which hinges around the mysterious Gorshin is as fantastic in its conception as any of Baker's dreams. As Mary says: 'Anything's possible Don't get too sane, it's bad for your health.'
I enjoyed this book partly for its occasional flasnes of wisdom, common sense and truth to simple experience ('Music cleaned out all the garbage in her head and put the fresh air back in').
I also enjoyed it for its insight into the adolescent world, its contrasts and absurdities (and in much of its humour lies). Ifound the minor characatured characters and the plotting more interesting than its main protagonists and perhaps this is a fault. whilst the connection between everyone remains a mystery the book remains interesting, but when the crooks have vanished and Gorshin has won we almost forget about poor young Baker and Mary fantasising in the cupboard. Nevertheless, this is a novel which any adolescent or anyone with the adolescent still in them should enjoy.

## Free Listings

Glossop Mother and Child Centre

If you are interested in using or helping at the above please ring Carol, Glossop 64287 for further details.

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TAMESIDE NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN
Meeting to organise against the Corrie Bill
AUEW, Margaret St. AUL
Weds.15th Aug 8pm.

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"Couple of subversives wish to form Tameside Anarchist Group.
If interested: phone Ron 303 8591 or letters c/o Grass Roots 1 Newton St. Piccadilly, M/c.

# Pub Crawl



The other night I called into THE QUEEN (Marstons) on Katherine St. AUL. Its a place that people pass a lot of pubs to get to and with a good landlady, darts and excellent bitter at 34p a pint it's not surprising. A bit stark inside but I'll go back for another. I dont drink lager but the woman behind the bar claimed theirs (Heineken) was the cheapest in town at 41p. - it's not true but full marks for trying.

Marstons is rare in this area and even rarer to find it kept well, it took three generations of the same family to get it right at the OLD BALL Broadoak Rd. AUL, where it is hand pumped and 2p. cheaper than The Queen. Go for a pint in the DOG & PARTRIDGE (J.W. Lees) on Brook St. AUL. The bitter at 33p is the best for miles and every drop out of wooden casks. They serve good, inexpensive food at lunchtime, but in the evenings it's darts, dominoes ,cards and a friendly atmosphere. The room upstairs is a meeting place for numerous clubs and societies and in Sept.it will house a fortnightly poetry reading group.

I've been hearing good things about THE NAVIGATION (Free House) near Hyde Central Stn. It sells Thwaites mild & bitter, Boddingtons bitter and IPA all from hand pumps. If you've been write and tell me if you think it deserves it's reputation.
Putting on my Sunday best I drifted across to THE SYCAMORE (Robinsons) Stamford Sq. AUL. It has recently been overhauled and from its original state as a pub they have now turned half into a restaurant and half into a tasteless mock-up of a hotel foyer. I had a quick pint and wondered whether or not they cook their steaks better than they keep their beer. Anyway it's a pub bursting with Tameside's 'right kind of person' - it's always good to have them in one place so you can keep your eye on them.

On a crawl in Glossop I had a few in the SURREY ARMS (Robinsons) High Street Worth a visit, their beer is excellent and it's a friendly pub with a women's darts team, pool and live music in the room upstairs.
It was with mixed feelings that I was persuaded to move on to WHITFIELD WORKING MENS CLUB Glossop, but it proved O.K. serving Boddingtons bitter at 28p. and Wilsons at 29p. In fact it was a few pints too good and I was on starting blocks in the morning.

By the way, where is the PIG ON THE WALL (Boddingtons) I've heard that it's a good pint, a friend drinks ten a night but she is never sober enough to tell me how to get there.

Bloody Mary

Phil,Barb and Ben would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, help and love over the last fortnight, following little Phils accident.

na jayate mriyate va kadacin
nayam bhutva bhavita va na bhuya
ajo nitya sasvato yam purano
na hanyate hanyamane sarire.

from the Bhagavad Gita.(2.20)

"For the soul, there is never birth or death,
Nor, having once been, does he ever cease to be,
He is unborn, eternal, ever-existing, undying and primeval.
He is not slain when the body is slain"

Translation.

Love and Peace Phil Barb and Ben Garrett.


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## REVIEWS AND LISTINGS

If anyone wants to review pubs, concerts, books restaurants or records, or to list local activities for Tameside Eye, please send them to 109 Oxford Road, Manchester


**TAMESIDE VOLUNTEER BUREAU**
300 Stamford St, A-U-Lyne.
tel.339 2345

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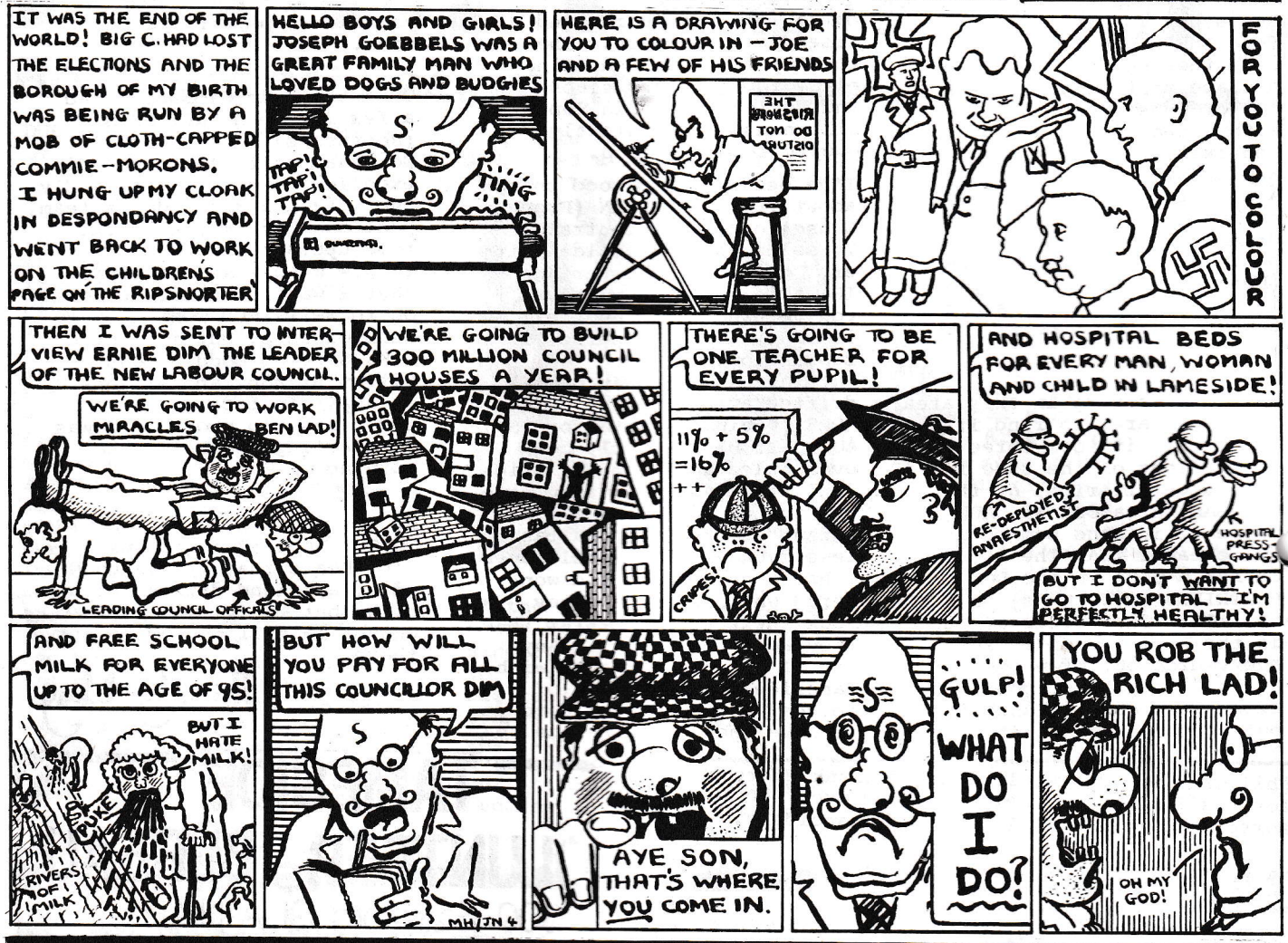
MARGARET or GLENYS
for volunteers MEG or LYNDA

**THREE CHEERS FOR VOLUNTEERS!**

# the secret life of **Uncle Ben**


IT WAS THE END OF THE WORLD! BIG C. HAD LOST THE ELECTIONS AND THE BOROUGH OF MY BIRTH WAS BEING RUN BY A MOB OF CLOTH-CAPPED COMMIE-MORONS. I HUNG UP MY CLOAK IN DESPONDANCY AND WENT BACK TO WORK ON THE CHILDRENS PAGE ON THE RIPSNORTER
HELLO BOYS AND GIRLS! JOSEPH GOEBBELS WAS A GREAT FAMILY MAN WHO LOVED DOGS AND BUDGIES
TAP! TAP! TAP!
TING
HERE IS A DRAWING FOR YOU TO COLOUR IN - JOE AND A FEW OF HIS FRIENDS
FOR YOU TO COLOUR
THEN I WAS SENT TO INTERVIEW ERNIE DIM THE LEADER OF THE NEW LABOUR COUNCIL.
WE'RE GOING TO WORK MIRACLES BEN LAD!
LEADING COUNCIL OFFICIALS
WE'RE GOING TO BUILD 300 MILLION COUNCIL HOUSES A YEAR!
THERE'S GOING TO BE ONE TEACHER FOR EVERY PUPIL!
11% + 5% =16% ++
CRIKES!
AND HOSPITAL BEDS FOR EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN LAMESIDE!
RE-DEPLOYED ANAESTHETIST
HOSPITAL PRESS-GANGS
BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO TO HOSPITAL - I'M PERFECTLY HEALTHY!
AND FREE SCHOOL MILK FOR EVERYONE UP TO THE AGE OF 95!
BUT I HATE MILK!
RIVERS OF MILK
BUT HOW WILL YOU PAY FOR ALL THIS COUNCILLOR DIM
MH/JN 4
AYE SON, THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN.
GULP! WHAT DO I DO?
YOU ROB THE RICH LAD!
OH MY GOD!

DEAR EYE

I have read your article (Eye 7) entitled 'Jones the Grant'.
My first reaction was anger that someone on your staff - who obviously knows little of the real world of Volunteer Service - should attack a man like Charlie Jones, who I suggest has done more for the needy of Tameside in the past ten years than your destructive journalism will ever succeed in destroying.
My second reaction however, was more magnaminious. I felt positive regret that a journal such as 'Eye', which if properly used could do so much for the people of Tameside, should have slid so far down the sewer of vitriolic sensationalism which inevitably blinds its eyes to truth.
I suggest you approach Mr. Charlie Jones, who I feel sure will be only too pleased to give you all the information you need, backed by factual records and audited accounts upon which you could base a proper journalistic investigation and come up with the real story which I will then challenge you to publish.
Yours sincerely,
W.R. OWEN
11 Doddington Walk, Denton.

EYE REPLY

There was a factual error in 'Jones the Grant'. TCIC have received £6,000 from Tameside Council and not the £60,000 in urban aid we claimed.
As for TCIC records and accounts, we published a 3-page investigation into Jones' organisation in Eye 5 based on a detailed study of those very same records and accounts you recommended us to read, Mr. Owen!

TAMESIDE CANALS FESTIVAL
4-5 AUGUST 1979
PORTLAND BASIN, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE
BARBECUE
DAVE DONOHOE JAZZ
PUMPKIN PIE FOLK
Beer tent CAMRA
BY THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE
BRASS BANDS
JUNIOR QUICKSTEP CONTEST
ROCK CONCERT
STREET LEVEL THEATRE
CRAFT FAIR
VINTAGE VEHICLE DISPLAY
* POLICE DIVERS * SIDE SHOWS * MORRIS DANCERS *
Children's fairground
MYSTERY HYNY MAGICIAN
DONKEY RIDES
HORSE-DRAWN NARROWBOAT TRIPS
STEAM BOATS ELECTRIC BOATS
RADIO-CONTROLLED MODEL BOATS AND AIRCRAFT
Four Seasons' Floating Restaurant
RALLY OF BOATS
Details from the festival secretary, Margaret Sumner - phone Mossley 2860
JOINTLY ORGANISED BY HUDDERSFIELD CANAL SOCIETY/INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION